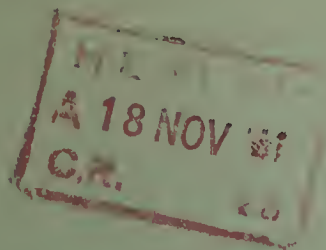


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1. ~~Mr. Thompson R/Sq~~
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BOROUGH OF SAFFRON WALDEN

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH



Irene M. Conway Hastilow. M.B., CH.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H.

(Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Corporation;
Medical Officer of Health, Saffron Walden Rural District Council;
Assistant County Medical Officer of Health, Essex County Council;
School Medical Officer, Essex County Council).

- and the -

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR and HOUSING OFFICER

E.D. Edwards. C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.(Tech).

- for the -

Year Ended 31st December, 1960.



REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1960.

Public Health Department,
69, High Street,
Saffron Walden.

Telephone:
Saffron Walden 2194
(At week-ends and in
evenings Saffron Walden 3031)

PREFACE

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my eleventh Annual Report on the Health of the Borough of Saffron Walden.

The estimated mid-year population rose from 7550 in 1959 to 7630 in 1960.

There were 117 live births and 101 deaths compared with 116 births and 116 deaths in 1959.

The birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population was similar to that in 1959 (15.33 in 1960 compared with 15.36 in 1959). Multiplied by the comparability factor of 1.05 this gives a figure of 16.1. The average for England and Wales in 1960 was 17.1.

The Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated population was 13.24 compared with 15.36 in 1959. Multiplying the Death Rate by the comparability factor of 0.56 gives the figure of 7.4 compared with the average for England and Wales of 11.5.

Only one child under one year died during the year. This was a child aged 3 weeks who was born with a congenital abnormality.

In 1960 occurred what was probably the worst outbreak of Sonne Dysentery ever recorded in the Borough. (Outbreaks in other parts of England and Wales occurred during the year). In Saffron Walden the disease appeared towards the end of January in one of the primary schools and necessitated the most vigorous measures being adopted to prevent the infection spreading throughout the Borough and into the surrounding rural districts. Conditions were made much more difficult as a number of cases of diarrhoea, due apparently to a virus infection, were occurring at the same time.

Local general practitioners and all schools were notified of the outbreak and asked to inform me immediately of any cases of diarrhoea, and the general public and the schools were asked to

exercise strict hygienic precautions. Specimens from each case reported were sent to the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge for bacteriological examination and in all positive cases children were excluded from school and food handlers from work until three negative specimens had been obtained. At the same time members of every household where a case was diagnosed were asked to provide specimens of faeces for bacteriological examination.

In the case of the school where the outbreak originated, specimens were obtained from every child in the school without exception. Conditions were particularly difficult at this school as the toilets are situated at some distance from any washing facilities and the number of wash basins in the schools are inadequate.

An added anxiety was that close contacts of some of the children were employed at St. James' Hospital and strict precautions had to be taken to prevent the spread of infection in the Hospital and adjoining Hostel. (Specimens were sent for examination from each patient and each member of staff).

Circular letters were sent to all schools outlining the precautionary measures to be taken and the Press assisted by giving publicity to the need for such precautions by the general public in their homes. Neighbouring Medical Officers of Health were notified of the outbreak and every care was taken to prevent the disease being carried outside the Borough. British Railways were also informed so that special precautions could be taken to disinfect toilets on the trains carrying passengers from Saffron Walden.

It soon became evident that my Department, with its Staff consisting of one Public Health Inspector (who was also Housing Officer), and his part-time Secretary, my part-time Secretary and myself, with 75% of my time normally devoted to duties for Essex County Council and 16 $\frac{2}{3}$ % allocated to cover the work in my Rural District, would quickly reach the point when an efficient service to safeguard the health of the Borough would become a physical impossibility. I had already asked the Mid-Essex Area Medical Officer if he would give me time off from my other County duties so that I could devote sufficient attention to organising methods of control in the schools and I had also asked the County Medical Officer for any assistance he could give me, but more help was still required to deal with conditions on the district. At my urgent request the Area Medical Officer sent down his Superintendent Health Visitor, Miss F. Collins, who organised a scheme by which the Health Visitors/School Nurses could supplement the work of the Public Health Inspector by visiting the patients' homes, giving advice, and arranging for bacteriological specimens to be sent in to my Office.

The work of visiting the homes was undertaken by Miss. E.W. Jones and Miss N. Bennett who carried out these duties most efficiently and expeditiously. At the same time Miss Jones visited each day the primary school most affected and kept in close touch with the other primary schools in the Borough. Precautionary

measures at the Technical & Modern School were supervised by Mrs. D.P. Silver in order to avoid the danger of infection being carried from the Borough to surrounding districts by children from the villages who attend this large school.

I cannot praise too highly the work done by the Health Visitors both in the schools and on the district, and my admiration for the long hours of duty performed by the Public Health Inspector is beyond words. As a result of these combined efforts, aided throughout by unstinted co-operation from the Staff of all the schools, the Public Health Inspectors in the Saffron Walden Rural District, the Matron, Secretary and Staff of St. James' Hospital, and by an excellent response from the general public, the spread of the disease was stopped before the end of March. Although only 58 cases had been confirmed, over 120 notifications were received from general practitioners in just over two months and hundreds of contacts were followed up and investigated. Fortunately no infants or very old people were severely affected and there were no deaths.

The next month measles broke out in the Borough and 46 cases were notified by general practitioners in four weeks. As a complete copy of every notification of infectious disease has to be sent to the County Medical Officer and full details, with name, age, address etc., entered in my Register, this put additional strain on my already overburdened part-time Secretary.

In July it was discovered that Sonne Dysentery had been introduced into St. James' Hospital by an orderly who was a symptomless carrier of the germ. Precautions were put into operation immediately and all contacts followed up, and the outbreak was confined to 11 cases. In spite of lack of facilities the disease was kept under control, thanks to the care and vigilance of the medical and nursing staff. As a result of this outbreak facilities for handwashing, etc. have been improved at this Hospital.

On the same day that Sonne dysentery was discovered at St. James' Hospital, a patient at the Saffron Walden General Hospital, who had been admitted for another condition, was found to be excreting food poisoning germs (*salmonellae typhi-murium*). However, as a result of the high standard of hygiene in this hospital, no other patients or members of staff were infected. All contacts both inside and outside the hospital were investigated and thoroughly followed up.

In the autumn a happier note was struck with the Mayor's Meeting on the Care of the Elderly on October 20th. The Town Hall was filled to capacity to hear a series of experts discuss the needs of the aged. The principal speakers were Dr. W. Davison, Geriatrician, East Anglian Regional Hospital Board, Dr. A.L. Miller Wood the Area Medical Officer of Health for Mid-Essex, Mr. W.E. Boyce the Essex County Welfare Officer and Dr. Michael Weller a general practitioner. These addresses were followed by a number of helpful contributions during the general discussion. Many good results have already stemmed from this meeting - the most noteworthy

perhaps being the inauguration of a Meals-on-Wheels Service, the establishing of an Information Bureau for the Elderly at 69, High Street (by the kind permission of the Area Medical Officer, Dr. A.L. Miller Wood), a great increase in support for the Saffron Walden Old People's Welfare Association and a growing awareness of the vast problems presented by the change in the age structure of our population during recent years. It is becoming evident that old people must have sufficient money and facilities to enable them to remain in their own homes in comfort, and enough work to keep them interested and happy. In these days the majority of the elderly do not enter hospital to remain there in increasing apathy until they die, they go there to be treated and, if possible, rehabilitated. Once this has been achieved the sooner they are returned to life in the Community the better, but they must return to suitable home conditions. This is where much can be done by the County Health and Welfare Services and the Local Sanitary Authority working together. Many a partially disabled old person can remain happily in his own home if that home is equipped with suitable aids to meet his needs.

The Mayor's Meeting rendered a great service to us all, firstly by indicating the extent of the problem and then the methods that could be adopted in our own Borough to help to solve it. Only by very close liaison between all statutory and voluntary bodies can this object be achieved. Already we are looking forward to new dwellings for old people with the services of a warden to help in case of need, and already the Meals-on-Wheels Service is steadily expanding. Perhaps the next step will be in the direction of providing more employment for the aged. Useful work can be done by many people in their seventies, or even in their eighties, if the right type of work and the right type of working facilities are available.

The Mayor's Meeting came at a time when our various outbreaks had abated so that the Staff of your Health Department could attend with less harrassed minds.

However, I have not even yet been able to make up the back log of routine work that accumulated in the first eight months of the year and that is why this Report is so late in appearing.

This seems a suitable place to record my special thanks to the Public Health Laboratory Service. Our Sonné Dysentery outbreak resulted in the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge receiving literally hundreds of faecal specimens from my Department alone, in addition to all those from other areas, yet the Medical Staff were never too hard pressed to spare the time to give me their advice and assistance in assessing the significance of their findings.

In addition to the work recorded above, investigations were carried out in a number of suspected cases of food poisoning. In only five cases were the germs isolated and in each case the infection was found to be due to salmonella typhi-murium. I would again ask my colleagues in general practice to notify me as soon as possible of all cases of gastro-intestinal infection and to

secure specimens of faeces, wherever possible, before treatment is commenced.

I cannot close this commentary on 1960 without referring once again to the great work done by the voluntary societies and the aid given to the aged, the handicapped and the disabled. The Tuberculosis Care Association, the Hospital Trust Fund Association, the Child Care Committee, Rotary and Soroptomists Clubs, Round Table, St. Raphael and St. Christopher Clubs - and so many other organisations that one cannot mention them all - contributed their share in alleviating suffering and allaying anxiety, and the help they have given me on so many occasions has earned my very deep gratitude.

In June 1960 the Saffron Walden Society for Mentally Handicapped Children had the joy of seeing the Essex County Council Comprehensive Training Centre opened in Hill Street where mentally handicapped children will be able to learn skills within their capacity, and mentally handicapped men and women of all ages will experience the joys of achievement as they learn how to work under expert tuition.

During 1960 the Essex County Council Services continued to expand in the Borough and relaxation classes for expectant mothers proved very popular.

Many hundreds of injections were given during the year by the family doctors and at the clinics and more school children were protected against tuberculosis.

I would like to thank the members of the Council for their help, especially the Mayor and the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee. My particular thanks are due to the Borough Public Health Inspector, Mr. E. Edwards, for his most loyal co-operation, to my part-time Secretary, Miss A. Lamb, who, in the few hours a week at her disposal, did so much work during the various outbreaks, and to the County Medical Officer, Dr. G.G. Stewart, his Principal Senior Assistant Medical Officer, Dr. Christine Grant, and the County Health Inspectors for their kind assistance. The Mid-Essex Area Medical Officer, Dr. A.L. Miller Wood, gave me considerable help during the year. My hearty thanks are due also to the Health Visitors/School Nurses for their valuable work, especially in helping to control the spread of infectious disease.

The Essex County Council Welfare Food/Clinic Clerks, Mrs. G. Sharp and Mrs. D. Whiffen, were, as always, most co-operative and accepted the constant interruptions and numerous queries during the dysentery outbreak with unfailing patience and good humour; their help in dealing with the general public at this time was quite invaluable. I must thank also Mrs. G. Kimber for her efficient clerical assistance when it became essential to call in extra clerical help during the height of the dysentery epidemic.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

IRENE M. CONWAY HASTILOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

October 1961.

BOROUGH of SAFFRON WALDEN.

Mayor : Alderman S.S. Wilson.

Deputy Mayor : Councillor A.L. Godfrey.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

(as on 31st December, 1960)

Chairman : Alderman F.W. Goddard.

Vice-Chairman : Councillor H.M. Housden.

Alderman G.O. Bradley. Councillor A.L. Godfrey.

Councillor G.T. Barnard. Councillor C.E. Swan.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health

Irene M. Conway Hastilow. M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., M.R.S.H..

Secretary: Miss. A.M. Lamb, Senior Com.Cert. of London Chamber
of Commerce.

Borough Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer

E.D. Edwards. C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I., R.P.(Tech).

Secretary: Mrs. A.M. Boyton.

Public Health Department:

69, High Street,
Saffron Walden,
Essex.

SECTION A - Statistics and social conditions of the Borough.

Area: 7,502 acres.

Population (Registrar General's estimate of
resident population mid-year 1960): 7,630

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1960)
according to Rate Books : 2,664

Rateable Value - (April 1st, 1960) : £114,967

Sum represented by Penny Rate (Year ended 31.3.60) : £455.5.10d.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

(Corrections being made for inward and outward transfers)

		Male	Female	Total
<u>Live Births</u> :	{ Legitimate :	60	52	112
	{ Illegitimate :	2	3	5

Birth Rate per 1000 population: 15.3. Corrected Birth Rate: 16.1

Illegitimate Live Births per cent of total live births : 4.27

		Male	Female
<u>Stillbirths</u> :	{ Legitimate :	0	3
	{ Illegitimate :	0	0

Total Live and Still Births : 120

Stillbirths per 1000 live and still births : 25

	Male	Female
<u>Infant Deaths</u> (deaths under one year) :	1	0

Infant Mortality Rates:

Total infant deaths per 1000 total live births	:	8.52
Legitimate " " " "	legitimate live births	: 8.9
Illegitimate " " " "	illegitimate " "	: Nil

Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under four weeks per 1000
total live births) : 8.52 (Total deaths = 1)

Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under one week per 1000
total live births) : Nil (Total deaths = 0)

Perinatal Mortality Rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week
combined per 1000 total live and still births) : 25
(Total = 3)

Maternal Mortality (including abortion):

Number of deaths = 0

Rate per 1000 total live and still births = 0

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1960.

(Figures in brackets refer to 1959)

	Cause of Death.	Male.	Female.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	0 (0)	0 (0)
2.	Tuberculosis, other	0 (0)	0 (0)
3.	Syphilitic Disease	0 (0)	0 (0)
4.	Diphtheria	0 (0)	0 (0)
5.	Whooping Cough	0 (0)	0 (0)
6.	Meningococcal Infections	0 (0)	0 (0)
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	0 (0)	0 (1)
8.	Measles	0 (0)	0 (0)
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	0 (0)	0 (0)
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1 (1)	0 (0)
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	2 (1)	0 (2)
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	0 (0)	2 (0)
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0 (0)	0 (1)
14.	Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	6 (4)	3 (3)
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1 (1)	1 (0)
16.	Diabetes	0 (0)	2 (2)
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	4 (4)	4 (8)
18.	Coronary disease, angina	9 (14)	7 (10)
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1 (0)	0 (1)
20.	Other heart disease	3 (2)	5 (2)
21.	Other circulatory disease	2 (3)	5 (3)
22.	Influenza	0 (2)	0 (1)
23.	Pneumonia	12 (10)	5 (9)
24.	Bronchitis	1 (1)	1 (1)
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	1 (0)	2 (0)
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	0 (2)	0 (0)
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1 (0)	1 (1)
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	0 (1)	0 (2)
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2 (1)	- -
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	- -	0 (0)
31.	Congenital malformations	1 (2)	0 (1)
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2 (8)	12 (5)
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	0 (2)	1 (0)
34.	All other accidents	0 (2)	0 (0)
35.	Suicide	0 (1)	1 (1)
36.	Homicide and operations of war	0 (0)	0 (0)

Total deaths - 101 { Male - 49 }
 { Female - 52 }

DEATH RATE per 1000 of the estimated population : 13.2

Death Rate corrected by multiplication by Comparability
Factor of 0.56 : 7.40

There were 17 deaths from pneumonia compared with 19 in 1959.

Deaths from coronary disease and angina totalled 16 compared with 24 in 1959 and 20 in 1958.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) notified during the year 1960 :

	<u>1960.</u>	<u>1959.</u>
Measles	67	1
Whooping Cough	0	2
Scarlet Fever	1	8
Erysipelas	1	1
Acute Poliomyelitis (Paralytic	0	2
(Non-paralytic	0	0
Virus Encephalitis	0	0
Sonné Dysentery	69	0
Pneumonia	0	0
Glandular Fever	0	1
Food Poisoning	5	0

Diphtheria.

For the eleventh year running no cases of diphtheria were notified in the Borough.

Poliomyelitis.

No cases of Poliomyelitis occurred during 1960.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

The five cases that occurred were all caused by infection by *Salmonella typhi-murium*.

Non-notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Mild outbreaks of diarrhoea and vomiting occurred from time to time but no causal organisms could be isolated.

Tuberculosis.

New cases notified and mortality during 1960.

Notifications: One case of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year.

(In 1959 one case of pulmonary tuberculosis and one case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year).

Deaths : Nil.

SECTION B - General provisions of Health Services for the Borough.

Laboratory Service - Bacteriological Service. The District is served by the Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

Ambulance Facilities - A day and night ambulance service is provided by the Essex County Council. The ambulance station is at Saffron Walden and is on the telephone, but, as the driver and attendant may be away from the station answering a call, persons urgently requiring an ambulance are advised to dial '999' and ask for an ambulance; where there is no dialling system it is sufficient to lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

Non-emergency calls are only accepted from a hospital, a doctor or nurse, or other competent person such as a mental welfare officer of the Mental Health Service.

SERVICES PROVIDED BY ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL.

I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer, Dr. J.L. Miller Wood, for the following information -

Home Nursing and Domiciliary Midwifery - These services are carried out by the Home Nurse/Midwives resident in the Borough.

Domiciliary Visiting by Health Visitors - Two Health Visitors work in the Borough, Miss. E.W. Jones, S.R.N., S.C.M. Part 1, H.V. Certificate and Mrs. D.P. Silver, B.Sc., S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.N., H.V. Certificate.

Domestic Help Service - Applications for domestic help should be made to the Area Medical Officer, Mid-Essex Division, 75, Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

Care of Expectant Mothers - An Ante-Natal Clinic is held at 2 p.m. on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden.

Relaxation classes are held every Monday afternoon.

A Women's Welfare Clinic is conducted in conjunction with the Ante-Natal Clinic. This is not a Family Planning Clinic and advice and treatment are only given in those cases where pregnancy would be definitely detrimental to health.

Care of Children up to School Age - Child Welfare sessions are held at Saffron Walden every Friday afternoon. Children are immunised against poliomyelitis, diphtheria and whooping cough by their family doctors or at the Clinic, at the request of their parents. Smallpox vaccinations are not carried out at the clinics as a routine but are performed by the family doctor.

Care of School Children - Regular School Medical Inspections are carried out at all schools. Children can be immunised against poliomyelitis, diphtheria, whooping cough and tuberculosis with the consent of their parents.

Dental Service - Treatment is given at 69, High Street, Saffron Walden and inspections are carried out in the schools.

HOSPITALS.

The hospitals are managed by the Regional Hospital Boards and provide medical, surgical and special treatment. The hospitals which serve Saffron Walden population are those in Saffron Walden, Cambridge and Bishop's Stortford. Cases of Infectious Diseases requiring hospital care are admitted to Brookfields Hospital, Cambridge.

Chest Clinics are available for the population of the Borough. There is one at Saffron Walden General Hospital and one at Castle Hill, Cambridge.

Treatment of Venereal Diseases is provided at the Clinic at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, and at the Herts & Essex Hospital, Bishop's Stortford.

National Assistance (Amendment) Act, 1951.

Statutory Action had to be taken under this Act in one case during the year.

SECTION C - Sanitary Circumstances of the Borough.

I am indebted to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor (Mr. T.W. Cloughton) for the following report :-

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The old sewerage system and the disposal works at Bridge End continue to give good service and it is estimated that they will continue to be adequate for some years despite the fact that Saffron Walden is developing quite rapidly.

The continued use of the old works is made possible by following the policy of previous years whereby certain additions and improvements are carried out annually.

The small disposal plants serving the Swards End and Little Walden Council Housing Estates continue to work satisfactorily.

Swimming Bath.

The purification and heating plant continued to operate very satisfactorily and a high standard of purity has been maintained at all times in the pool.

Water Supply.

Throughout the district the standard of piped water for domestic purposes has been maintained at a high level and has been satisfactory as regards quality and quantity respectively.

Number of dwelling houses and population served by mains -

(a) direct to the houses - Houses 2,542. Population 7,517.

(b) by means of standpipes - Houses 58. Population 113.

Total Population served - 7,630.

ANALYSIS OF A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Received --- from Saffron Walden Borough Council per E.C.C.
Labelled - Tap direct from main supply at the Municipal Offices,
Saffron Walden.

Chemical Results in Parts per Million.

Appearance : Bright with very few particles.	Nitrate Nitrogen 5.8
Turbidity : Less than 3.	Nitrite Nitrogen Absent.
Colour Nil.	Ammoniacal Nitrogen 0.000
Odour Nil.	Oxygen Absorbed 0.00
pH. 7.1	Albuminoid Nitrogen 0.000
Free Carbon Dioxide 40	Residual Chlorine Absent.
Electric Conductivity 600	Metals :
Dissolved Solids	Zinc 1.0
dried at 180°C. 415	Iron 0.03
Chlorine present	Copper and Lead Absent.
as Chloride 23	
Alkalinity as	
Calcium Carbonate 275	
Hardness : Total 235	
Carbonate 235)	
Non-carbonate 0)	

Bacteriological Results.

	<u>1 day at</u> <u>37°C.</u>	<u>2 days at</u> <u>37°C.</u>	<u>3 days at</u> <u>20°C. - 22°C.</u>
Number of Colonies			
developing on Agar Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.
Presumptive Coliform reaction. Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per 100 ml.
Bact.coli (Type I) Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per 100 ml.
Cl.welchii reaction Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	Nil per ml.	

This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals apart from a trace of zinc and a very minute trace of iron. The water is hard in character but its hardness and its content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are not considered excessive. It conforms to the highest standard of organic quality.

These results indicate a water which, from the aspect of the chemical analysis, is pure and wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes. Compared with the raw water, it shows a useful reduction in hardness by the base-exchange process.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORT ON A SAMPLE OF WATER.

Nature of Sample : Swimming Bath, Municipal Swimming Bath,
Saffron Walden. Deep end - outlet.

Date of collection : 10.8.60.

Date of arrival : 10.8.60.

REPORT.

Date of Report: 12.8.60.

Plate Count. Yeastrel agar 24 hours 37°C. aerobically 1 per ml.

Probable number of coliform bacilli, MacConkey 2 days, 37°C.
0 per 100 ml.

Probable number of Bact. coli (type I) 0 per 100 ml.

Remarks :-

Highly satisfactory.

R E P O R T

of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1960.

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR. 1960.

To: The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Saffron Walden Borough Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my sixth Annual Report summarising the duties carried out during the year 1960 either by myself or at my instigation as Public Health Inspector and Housing Officer.

The outbreak of Sonne dysentery during the period January to March upset and curtailed much of the normal routine work and its effect is noticeable in certain aspects of the many and varied duties of the Public Health Department. Fortunately these periods of prolonged concentrated effort on one particular duty do not occur very often but it is at these times when one becomes conscious of the fact that despite every endeavour there is a limit to what can be done with the time and resources available. With infectious disease prompt investigation and action is essential to provide any public health value. Concern was felt when so many notifications of suspected Sonne dysentery were received each day that they could not be dealt with immediately but had to be held over and visited in rotation as time permitted. The assistance volunteered about this time by the Health Visitors of the County Council and also by the Public Health Department of the Rural District Council was very much appreciated and enabled the backlog of investigations and re-visits to be reduced to manageable proportions. Looking back it can now be appreciated how readily co-operation was forthcoming from the school staff concerned and all but a minute number of the local residents affected.

The routine inspection of houses needing repair and improvement in accordance with the Housing Act, 1957, was continued and notices served where necessary. It is expected that all such houses will have been inspected before the end of 1961.

The first five years of the Slum Clearance Programme was completed and the bulk of the unfit houses suitable only for closure or demolition have now been dealt with. Such houses remaining are now comparatively few and although this work must still proceed there is less urgency than before. The twelve houses included in the Middle Square Clearance Area are

expected to be soon demolished which will do much to improve the appearance of this part of the Town. At the time of writing only one family remained to be re-housed from this Clearance Area.

Except for the dysentery outbreak the year in question was largely one of normal routine. It is this routine work however, which slowly but surely raises the level of public health in accordance with present day standards and trends. The report indicates some of the aspects of public health work which are carried out on behalf of the community to safeguard and improve housing and working conditions, provide pure and wholesome food, water and air, and to control and prevent spread of infectious diseases.

In conclusion I thank the Public Health and Housing Committees and all other members of the Council for their support and interest during the year. My thanks are again due to Dr. I.M.C. Hastilow, Medical Officer of Health, and the Chief Officers and all other members of the Council staff for their continued co-operation and assistance which is very much appreciated.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E.D. Edwards.

Public Health Inspector
and Housing Officer.

WATER SUPPLIES and WATER SAMPLES.

Main Supplies.

For several years it has been the practice to take samples at weekly intervals from various points on the main supply and this continued as before except for the first three months of the year when the frequency of sampling was much reduced. This was caused by the dysentery epidemic within the Borough as reported elsewhere with the consequent pressure of work and lack of time available for routine duties. Similarly, due to the epidemic in the Borough and other districts, the Public Health Laboratory at Cambridge were forced by pressure of work to request local authorities to curtail their normal routine sampling activities.

It is suggested in the report entitled 'The Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies' that routine control for some water undertakings should involve daily testing but, taking into consideration the general high standard of the source of supply in the Borough and facilities available, it is considered that samples at weekly intervals are reasonable in the circumstances. The more frequently samples are taken the less risk there is of sudden deterioration of the supplies due to contamination with possible harmful effects on the consumer.

The majority of samples were satisfactory and the exceptions were as follows :-

Sewards End. There was a slight deterioration in the supply over a short period and this was apparently due to the admission of extraneous matter due to a break in the main.

Little Walden. Deterioration only occurred on that part of the supply which is supplied via the underground reservoir at Little Walden and the storage tank on Hadstock Airfield. As a result of previous unsatisfactory samples a chlorinator had been installed at the pumping station near the reservoir and on investigation it was found the chlorinator was not working satisfactorily. The chlorinator was checked and adjusted after which later samples were satisfactory.

Occasional samples were taken of water direct from the borehole at the Municipal Waterworks before treatment or purification and were all reported as being free from coliform bacilli and *Bacterium coli* (Type I).

Samples of water supplied by the Rural District Council to four occupied dwellings near the Borough boundary in the

Ashdon Road area were reported as unsatisfactory. Sand and scale was also present in the water which no doubt collected in this vicinity due to almost a dead end in the main. The main was flushed and the water was soon again satisfactory in all respects.

Well Supplies.

The four wells known to provide water for human consumption were sampled from time to time and, with one exception, were highly satisfactory.

Four samples taken over a few weeks from a deep well extended by a bore showed a steady increase in contamination present. This was believed to be due to the abnormal wet weather causing the penetration of sub-soil water which could be seen entering the well a few feet below ground level. All persons using this supply were advised to boil drinking water until further notice and the owner had certain recommended improvements to the well in hand.

One informal notice was served requiring the provision of a supply of wholesome water.

Municipal Swimming Bath.

Both samples from the bath were free from coliform bacilli and Bacterium coli (Type I). The baths attendant makes regular checks to ensure the water is sufficiently chlorinated.

Paddling Pool.

A sample of water from this pool was stated to have a plate count which was uncountable and also contained coliform bacilli and Bacterium coli (Type I). As previously reported, the pool should only be used for the purpose intended, that is the sailing of model boats and for paddling only.

Summary of Bacteriological Samples Taken.

<u>Source.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Satisfactory.</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory.</u>
Main supply - Town Area	18	18	Nil
Main supply - Swards End	18	10	8
Main supply - Audley End Village and District.	12	12	Nil
Main supply - Little Walden			
Direct	5	5	Nil
Indirect	12	7	5
Reservoir	1	Nil	1
Well Supplies	9	5	4
Untreated water from bore at Municipal Waterworks.	5	5	Nil
Municipal Swimming Pool	2	2	Nil
Paddling Pool	1	See above.	
Rural District Supply	9	4	5

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.

Sections 39 & 45. Drainage, defective sanitary conveniences, etc.

5 informal notices were served under these sections and the work requested included the improvement of existing septic tanks, the removal of sewage effluent from a ditch, the cleansing, repair or renewal of sanitary conveniences, and the improvement of an existing drainage system.

Section 83. Filthy or verminous premises.

No disinfestations of dwellinghouses needed to be carried out but 3 business premises were treated for cockroaches.

Section 92. Nuisances.

33 complaints of alleged insanitary or other conditions prejudicial to health were received and on investigation 30 complaints were found to be justified and warrant action either under this section or other sections of the Public Health Act, 1936, or other similar legislation.

As a result of routine inspections and complaints, 20 nuisances to which this section of the Act applies were found to exist and 20 informal notices requiring the abatement of nuisance were served. 1 Abatement Notice requiring the remedy of various defects at a house was served but was later withdrawn as the house was vacated and an undertaking given not to re-occupy the house unless it was put in good repair.

3 Abatement Notices served during 1959 regarding nuisance from keeping of pigs, an offensive ditch and dust from a chalkpit were complied with during the year together with 30 informal notices.

Section 167. Disinfection of premises, articles, etc.

A ward in a hostel, two houses and, on two occasions, an entire school, were disinfected in connection with infectious diseases or illnesses.

Section 269. Control of moveable dwellings.

None of the previous licences to station and use moveable dwellings were renewed during the year as the caravans concerned

were moved from the sites or, in one case, were on the site without planning permission.

The only licence issued was in respect of a trailer type caravan on property owned by British Railways and both the site and caravan were satisfactory with mains water supply and flush sanitation in the near vicinity.

The Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, came into force as from the 29th August, 1960, and had two main objects :-

- a. to control the location of caravan sites in order to prevent them from starting up in the wrong places but allowing them to be developed in suitable places, and
- b. to improve conditions on sites by requiring good standards of layout, equipment and maintenance.

This Act generally strengthened the position of the local authority in requiring sites to be of a reasonable standard and in conformity with good practice. Model Standards for such sites were specified and will form the basis for the conditions to be attached to future licences.

At the end of the year 4 new applications for site licences had been received and were awaiting planning approval before licences could be issued.

THE HOUSING ACT, 1957.

Repair of Dwellings.

The routine inspection of houses which appeared to be unfit for human habitation but repairable at reasonable expense first commenced in July, 1958, continued during the year. On the whole it would seem the worse houses have either been repaired or are included in the future slum clearance programme as repairs requested of late have not been so extensive as before. In several instances no action has been necessary as the work of repair and improvement has been put in hand by the owner concerned.

Progress at the end of the year was as follows :-

a. totals for the period July, 1958 to December, 1960.

Houses inspected		93
Informal notices served		76
Informal notices complied with	..	44

b. for the year 1960 and included in the above.

Houses inspected		23
Informal notices served		16
Informal notices complied with	..	22
Houses at which work had started but was awaiting completion	..	22

Two formal notices for the repair of dwelling houses were served in accordance with Section 9 of the Act and one such notice was outstanding from the previous year. One notice was complied with by the owner and work had started at the end of the year to comply with the two remaining notices.

Demolition, closure, etc., of unfit houses.

The slum clearance action during the year consisted of the submission of a Clearance Order in respect of Nos.1 to 12 inclusive, Middle Square, to the Minister of Housing and Local Government for confirmation by him. The re-housing of the occupants of Middle Square was commenced and at the end of the year there were only three families occupying four houses for whom alternative accommodation needed to be found.

Persons re-housed to Council accommodation were as follows :-

Re-housed from Middle Square	-	7 families consisting of 11 adults and 9 children.
Re-housed from two houses closed 1959	-	2 families consisting of 6 adults and 2 children.

1960 saw the completion of the first five years of the Slum Clearance Programme and the houses dealt with during

that period were as follows :-

1.	Unfit houses demolished	..	..	..	..	11
2.	Unfit houses to be demolished in Middle Square Clearance Area	..	..	..	..	12
3.	Houses subject to Closing Orders or undertakings that they will not be used for human habitation	..	..	..	..	19
4.	Unfit houses where Closing or Demolition Orders were determined after repair and improvement	..	..	..	..	20
5.	Unfit houses where undertakings were given to repair and improve	..	..	..	..	6
6.	Unfit houses now made fit by informal action..	..	..	..	..	9
7.	Unfit houses now made fit voluntarily without action by Council	..	..	..	..	5
TOTAL						<u>82 houses</u>

Of this total of 82 houses which it was originally thought would need to be demolished or closed, 40 houses have been repaired, improved and made fit in all respects.

It was proposed to deal with 77 unfit houses during the first five years of the Slum Clearance Programme and this has been accomplished although in a somewhat different manner to that first visualised. It is pleasing to note that a considerable number of houses have been saved from closure or demolition and will continue as homes for many years to come. A large proportion of these houses are listed as being of architectural or historic interest.

As further proposals were required for dealing with the remaining unfit houses in the Borough another survey of all likely properties was carried out and the proposals submitted to the Minister of Housing and Local Government were as follows :-

Part I. The total problem

- (i) Estimated number of houses remaining
unfit for human habitation 30
- (ii) Period of years which the Council think
necessary for securing the demolition
of all houses in (i) 10

Part II. Action already taken

Number of houses demolished or closed
since 1.1.56, including unfit houses
owned by local authorities and those
in unfitness orders 42

Part III. Further proposals for action in the next five years

- (i) Number of houses to be demolished
in clearance areas 8
- (ii) Number of houses to be demolished
elsewhere 9
- (iii) Number of houses to be patched and
retained for temporary accommodation . Nil

As will be seen from the above, action has been deferred for five years in respect of 13 houses and this is due to the condition of the houses concerned being of a borderline nature. It is considered their useful life can continue for this period of time before action to secure their demolition would be warranted.

Overcrowding.

One case of statutory overcrowding occurred in a Council house but this was abated by a daughter of the tenant together with her husband and child being offered other Council accommodation.

THE RENT ACT, 1957.

Very few enquiries were received from tenants and owners as to their position under the Act and there was only one application for a Certificate of Disrepair and this was not issued as the landlord gave an undertaking to carry out the necessary repairs.

Only one Certificate of Disrepair has yet to be cancelled and this was issued in 1958, one other certificate was cancelled when the house concerned became vacant.

General.

A total of 14 Council Dwellings and 39 Private Dwellings were completed and occupied for the first time. At the end of the year there were approximately 2647 occupied dwellings of all types, this total including living accommodation with shops and similar properties.

34 inspections, 120 re-inspections and 24 other visits were made in connection with the Housing Acts.

FACTORIES and OUTWORKERS.

10 inspections were made of premises registered as factories and informal action was taken in one case to secure the provision of intervening ventilated spaces between sanitary conveniences and workrooms in accordance with the Sanitary Accommodation Regulations, 1938.

Only 3 persons continued to be registered as outworkers as compared with 5 in 1959.

The prescribed particulars on the administration of, and as required by the Factories Act, are appended.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

16 inspections were made under this Act to enforce the requirements relating to temperature, ventilation and provision of sanitary conveniences in shops.

Informal action was taken in one instance to secure the renewal, repair and cleansing of a block of sanitary conveniences common to seven shops and the necessary work was completed by the end of the year.

An informal request made during 1959 for the repair of a defective and dilapidated sanitary convenience was complied with by the provision of completely new conveniences together with adequate and suitable washing facilities.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE ENQUIRIES.

107 enquiries and 597 re-visits were made in connection with infectious disease and these extraordinarily high totals were due to a large outbreak of Sonne dysentery during the early months of the year. In February alone 53 enquiries and 210 re-visits were made and, as the only public health official then visiting the families concerned, the majority of other duties had to be put to one side except for certain essential work such as meat inspection which was fully carried out. Even then a large amount of time had to be spent after working hours in connection with the outbreak, the work at these times consisting mainly of paper work and reports regarding enquiries.

Later on the health visitors were able to deal with some of the enquiries and follow up visits on my behalf and this did much to clear up a back log of cases who had not been visited due to lack of time. The health visitors themselves were very busy dealing with school contacts and that they volunteered and were willing to help so ably at this critical period is much to their credit and very much appreciated.

In view of the number of cases of confirmed Sonne dysentery in the Borough the local doctors were asked to notify all cases of illness where symptoms of dysentery were present. This in itself was a wise and proper precaution but as all such cases were classed as dysentery until proved otherwise meant much time consuming effort.

After clinical diagnosis of Sonne dysentery confirmation is obtained by bacteriological diagnosis and this is from the isolation or otherwise of dysentery bacilli from faeces or rectal swabs from the patient. Such specimens or swabs need to be taken before the patient commences treatment but in the majority of cases this was not arranged and specimens had to be left until a few days after treatment was completed. If Sonne dysentery was confirmed after treatment it indicated the treatment had proved ineffective and further treatment was desirable. Where results were negative this could have indicated that if the patient had had dysentery the treatment was effective but there was no confirmation whether in fact he or she had Sonne dysentery to start with.

As a virus infection which had similar symptoms to dysentery was also prevalent at the same time it would appear likely that many of the cases dealt with would not have needed action by the Public Health Department if it had been definitely confirmed that they were not suffering from dysentery or other infectious disease. Towards the end of the outbreak specimens were sent to the Public Health Laboratory immediately prior to the patient

commencing treatment and, on receiving a bacteriological report, it was then comparatively easy to decide the action that needed to be taken.

The initial source of the disease was not determined but one food handler at the school mainly involved was found to be infected. As a precaution all food handlers and kitchen staff at 3 school kitchens and canteens, together with the staff of a dairy, were checked by bacteriological means to see if they were free from infection and this proved to be the case.

A summary of the persons involved in the outbreak is given below. The numbers of cases shown are those confirmed by bacteriological means and, having regard to the comments above, the actual totals were probably much higher than indicated.

	<u>Families.</u>	<u>Persons involved.</u>	<u>Persons confirmed as suffering from Sonne dysentery.</u>
1. Enquiries commenced and completed by the health visitors.	15	72	6
2. Enquiries commenced by health visitors but completed by self.	8	39	9
3. Enquiries commenced and completed by self.	77	324	95
TOTALS	100	435	110
4. Other enquiries regarding suspected cases but found free from infection			- 21 persons
5. Food handlers checked but free from infection			
a. Dairy staff			- 9 persons
b. School canteen and kitchen staff			- 32 persons

FOOD PREMISES, MILK, DAIRIES and FOOD INSPECTION.

Food Premises.

There are 91 food premises and an average of 15 food vehicles and stalls operating in the Borough. The types are as follows :-

Restaurants and Cafes	..	..	..	..	9
School and factory canteens	..	..	..	..	8
Hotels and Public Houses	..	..	..	..	24
Butchers	..	..	..	..	6
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	3
Bakers and Confectioners shops	..	..	..	..	4
Wet Fish	..	..	..	..	1
Wet and Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	2
Fried Fish	..	..	..	..	2
Grocers	..	..	..	..	11
General stores (grocery, sweets, etc.)	..	..	..	..	12
Sweet Factory	..	..	..	..	1
Sweet Shops	..	..	..	..	5
Green-grocers	..	..	..	..	3
Mobile butchers shops	..	..	..	..	4
Fish Stalls	..	..	..	..	1
Mobile Fish and Chip Fryers	..	..	..	..	2
Sweet Stalls	..	..	..	..	1
Mobile Grocery shops	..	..	..	..	2
Fruit and Vegetable stalls	..	..	..	..	3 (average)
Mobile greengrocers	..	..	..	..	1
Poultry Stall	..	..	..	..	1

12 of the above premises continued to be registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the preparation or manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed or preserved food. A total of 34 premises were registered under Section 158 of the Essex County Council Act, 1933, for the sale and storage of ice-cream or similar commodity, 3 of these registrations were new and 3 registrations were given up. No ice-cream is manufactured in the Borough.

13 inspections were made of registered premises, 50 inspections of other food premises and 12 inspections of stalls and vehicles.

The general standard of food premises continued to be satisfactory. Improvements of a structural nature were requested at two food premises and included in one case a warning regarding general cleanliness of the premises. Three food handlers were also warned regarding certain unhygienic practices which were likely to give rise to the contamination of food.

Milk and Dairies.

Two milk dealers continued to retail specially designated milk within the Borough and in nearby districts, one dealer also having a licence from the Essex County Council to pasteurise milk on his premises.

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960, consolidated and amended various milk regulations and placed the responsibility for granting dealers' licences on the Food and Drugs Authority for the district which, in the Borough, is the Essex County Council. Very few duties now remain in which the Borough Council have any responsibilities regarding the sale of milk within their district.

Food Inspection.

29 visits were made for the purpose of examining various foodstuffs to determine whether or not they were fit for human consumption. In all cases the food was surrendered voluntarily and was subsequently destroyed.

The types and quantities of food surrendered were as follows :-

<u>Tinned Food.</u>		<u>Other Food.</u>	
Meat	295 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Meat	84 lbs.
Fruit	230 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Frozen Liver	30 lbs.
Vegetables	86 lbs.	Smoked Fish	28 lbs.
Sausages	34 lbs.	Bacon	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Preserves	7 lbs.	Frozen Kidneys	5 lbs.
Milk	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ pints (equivalent)		
Fish	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.		

A complaint was received of a dead fly in a sausage roll produced in the Borough which on investigation was found to be justified. The manufacturer concerned maintains a high standard of food hygiene and takes all reasonable precautions to keep his premises free from insects of all types as far as it is possible to do so. This includes the spraying of the premises throughout the day with an approved insecticide in aerosol form and it is thought that a fly killed in this way may have fallen in the flour during mixing and given rise to the complaint. In the circumstances and as the first complaint of this nature action was confined to a warning.

Another complaint was received of foreign bodies and an insect in a bottle of sterilized milk and the milk on straining was found to contain cork from the crown top and a live wood louse. As the milk was sterilised after bottling it was pointed

out the insect could only have entered the bottle after opening by the purchaser and the cork from the top was not the fault of the supplier but the manner in which the bottle had been opened.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The total animals slaughtered for food in the Borough showed a moderately large increase as compared with the year 1958, the figures for 1959 being disregarded as there was some reduction in throughput at one slaughterhouse during that year while extensive alterations were in progress. A proportion of the animals slaughtered, mainly pigs, continued to be sold by wholesale in other districts.

Comparative figures are as follows :-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Cattle.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>	<u>Sheep.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Goats.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1955.	475	1724	704	40	-	2943
1956.	627	2616	544	36	-	3823
1957.	550	2599	470	41	3	3663
1958.	519	2818	813	15	3	4168
1959.	398	2422	1133	22	-	3975
1960.	615	3041	1038	23	1	4718

Every animal slaughtered at either of the two slaughterhouses was inspected before release for human consumption.

The percentages of animals where some part or organ was rejected as being unfit for human consumption continued much the same as previous years. That part of the animal rejected usually consisted of offal such as liver and there was no impairment in the quality of the carcass. The quality of meat produced from both private slaughterhouses continued to be of a high standard, meat that did not reach the required standard being sold by wholesale in other areas and this also included any cow beef produced.

The incidence of cysticercus bovis continued as before. In every case and despite a thorough and careful examination only one degenerated cyst was found in each animal so affected.

Comparative amounts of meat and offal rejected are as follows :-

1955.	1 ton.	16 cwts.	0 qrs.	5 lbs.
1956.	2 tons.	4 cwts.	2 qrs.	9 lbs.
1957.	1 ton.	19 cwts.	2 qrs.	3 lbs.
1958.	2 tons.	6 cwts.	2 qrs.	9 lbs.
1959.	1 ton.	11 cwts.	0 qrs.	13 lbs.
1960.	2 tons.	2 cwts.	3 qrs.	22 lbs.

Report on Slaughterhouse Facilities.

In accordance with Section 3 (1) of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, a review was carried out of the existing and probable requirements of the Borough for slaughterhouse facilities which are, or are likely to become, available to meet those requirements. After consultation with the various interests concerned it did not appear that slaughtering requirements were likely to differ to any great extent in the future and then only due to increase in population and demand for meat.

Of the six butchers shops in the Borough four receive their home killed meat from other districts. The other two shops each have their own private slaughterhouse and provide home killed meat for sale by themselves and, to some extent, for sale by shops in other districts.

The owners of both private slaughterhouses intended to bring them up to the required standard and they would remain in use. Slaughtering at both slaughterhouses is at present carried on for only part of each week and it is anticipated that throughput could be increased if the need arose in the future.

No major works were required at either private slaughterhouse and the Council recommended to the Minister that the construction regulations should apply to all slaughterhouses in the Borough on and after 30th June, 1961.

General.

My thanks are once again due to the management and staff at both slaughterhouses for their ready assistance and co-operation throughout the year. Every animal slaughtered for food was inspected and it was the co-operation on both sides that helped to maintain this satisfactory position without any delay or inconvenience to the slaughterers or the need for excessive overtime by myself.

450 visits were made to slaughterhouses for the purpose of meat inspection.

RODENT CONTROL.

Mr. F. Richardson, rodent operator, retired after many years service with the Council and was replaced by a much younger man. The new operator has a motor scooter which enables him to cover the Borough with the minimum time lost due to travelling and his secondary duties, as and when time permits, consist of disinfection, control of insect pests, baling paper salvage and general duties at the Council owned Refuse Tip. By being at the Refuse Tip on most days it is easy to carry out baiting for rats in the vicinity and reduce the infestation of the tip to the lowest possible level.

The incidence of infestations continued much as before and due to the remarkable breeding rate of rats it is essential that all possible action be taken to reduce and perhaps one day eliminate this pest. It appears that some of the larger towns have for the first time large areas where rats have virtually ceased to exist. In a town like Saffron Walden, surrounded by fields and farms which are comparatively near to the town centre, there is no prospect of it being free of rodents in the foreseeable future. It has been estimated that one pair of rats could in one year produce offspring totalling eight hundred or so. Fortunately, after allowing for mortality from various causes and making other allowances, it is estimated that a pair of rats will under normal conditions produce progeny of about one hundred and thirty per annum. From these estimated figures will be seen the importance of early treatment where infestations occur. The rodent operator makes a survey from time to time of all likely places where there may be an infestation and commences baiting if rats are in evidence. In this connection the occupiers of property, irrespective of type, could do much to reduce this problem by prompt notification to myself when rats or mice are known or suspected to exist. There is every encouragement for the occupier to do this as there is no charge for the destruction of rodents at private premises and only the lowest possible charge for labour and materials used in the case of business or agricultural premises.

As a result of notification and routine survey a total of 119 premises and land areas were found to be infested with rats or mice and 153 treatments and re-treatments were carried out. In addition a routine treatment of the Town sewers was carried out in April and May during which test or pre-baits were laid in 64 inspection chambers. It was necessary to lay poison baits in 26 inspection chambers of which 11 baits were either completely or partly taken.

60 wasps nests were also destroyed by the rodent operator during the year.

CLEAN AIR.

Only 3 visits needed to be made in this connection and each visit was due to complaints of the burning of waste products in the open by two separate business concerns and which gave rise to smoke, offensive odours and ash. In one instance the complaint was made in respect of emissions on a previous day and as a warning had been given on an earlier occasion further emissions have since been looked for but so far no nuisance has yet been observed.

In the case of the other business concern a warning was given and it was pointed out that there was no objection to their waste material being deposited at the Council's Refuse Tip.

HOUSING APPLICATIONS and TENANCIES.

The number of new applications for Council accommodation was 86 as compared with 74 in the previous year.

A summary of the applications outstanding at the end of the year is as follows :-

Applications from :

Single persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	10	(13)
Single elderly persons	..	..	..	..	..	..	31	(22)
Married elderly couples	..	..	..	..	..	..	25	(22)
Married couples with :								
No children	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	(49)
One child	..	..	..	..	..	..	49	(52)
Two children (same sex)	.	..	..	..	..	..	14	(10)
Two children (opposite sex)	..	..	..	..	..	..	20	(12)
Three children (same sexes)	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	(2)
Three children (opposite sexes)	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	(7)
Four children (same sexes)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	(2)
Four children (opposite sexes)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-

TOTAL APPLICANTS

212 . (191)

(Figures in brackets refer to 1959).

As will be seen from the above summary, there is still

a great need for Council housing accommodation, particularly for elderly persons.

The Council accommodation occupied during the year was as follows :-

	<u>Families.</u>
New accommodation let for first time :	
(a) to applicants	10
(b) to transferred Council tenants	4
Existing accommodation let to applicants	14
Council tenants transferred to existing vacant accommodation	3
Tenants of this Council allowed to change tenancies with :	
(a) other tenants of this Council	4
(b) tenants of other local authorities	1
New tenancies	<u>36</u>

Council owned accommodation at the end of the year consisted of the following :-

Pre-war houses and flats	178
Pre-fabricated Arcon bungalows	20
Post-war houses and flats	466
TOTAL	<u>664</u>

There were 26 Council houses under construction of which 14 were completed and occupied by the end of the year.

41 visits were made in connection with housing applications and 69 visits in connection with matters affecting Council tenants.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTION.

INSPECTIONS and VISITS.

A. Public Health.

Public Health Act	158
Re-visits	76
Moveable Dwellings	21
Filthy and/or verminous dwellings	3
Shops Act	16
Factories	10
Miscellaneous Visits	87
Smoke Abatement	3
Waste Foods Order	3

B. Housing.

Housing Acts	34
Re-visits	120
Miscellaneous Visits	24
Enquiries into applications for Council Houses	41
Council House Tenancies	69

C. Infectious Disease.

Enquires into cases	107
Re-visits	597
Disinfections carried out	7

D. Meat Inspection.

Visits to Slaughterhouses	450
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E. Food Premises and Food Hygiene.

Food Surrender	29
Registered Premises	13
Dairies and milk distributors	2
Other Food Premises	50
Food Stalls and vehicles	12

F. Miscellaneous.

Rodent Control	27
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TOTAL INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

1959

DEFECTS REMEDIED AND NUISANCES ABATED.

(Does not include Shops, Factories or Food Premises).

General.

Accumulations removed	..	..	..	..	1
Dustbins supplied or renewed	..	..	..	..	4
Miscellaneous nuisances abated	..	..	..	..	1
Ditches and watercourses cleansed	..	..	..	..	1

Drainage.

Drains repaired or improved	..	..	..	..	7
Water-closets repaired, improved or re-constructed	..	..	..	..	9
Flushing apparatus provided or repaired	..	..	..	..	5
Sinks provided for the first time	..	..	..	..	14
Sinks renewed	..	..	..	..	2

Water Supply.

Mains supply provided in houses	..	..	..	..	15
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Repairs to Dwellinghouses.

Chimneys re-constructed or repaired	..	..	..	..	2
External brickwork and rendering repaired - houses	..	..	..	..	8
Roofs repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	23
Rainwater pipes and gutters repaired, renewed or provided	..	..	..	..	13
Floors renewed or repaired - rooms	..	..	..	..	21
Wall and ceiling plaster repaired - rooms	..	..	..	..	23
Dampness remedied - rooms	..	..	..	..	24
Doors and windows repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	34
Lighting and ventilation improved - rooms	..	..	..	..	1
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	9
Staircases and steps repaired	..	..	..	..	15
Yard paving repaired or renewed - houses	..	..	..	..	12

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

described particulars on the administration of the Factories Act 1937.

Part I of the Act.

INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
a) Factories in which Sect. 2,3,4 & 6, are to be enforced by Local Authority.	3	-	-	-
b) Factories not included (1) in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	53	10	2	-
c) Other Premises in which Sect.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding workers' premises).	2	-	-	-
TOTAL	58	10	2	-

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	-	-	-	-	-
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	2	-	-	1	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences not including offences relating to Outwork.	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	-	-	1	-

Part VIII of the Act.

OUTWORK.

(Sections 110 and 111).

Section 110.

No. of out-workers in August
list required by Sect.110 (1)(c)

No. of cases of default in
sending lists to Council.

No. of prosecutions for
failure to supply lists.

Section 111.

No. of instances of work in
unwholesome premises.

Notices served.

Prosecutions.

TOTAL

Nature of Work.	
Wearing Apparel.	
Making etc.	Cleaning & washing.
3	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
-	-
3	-

MEAT INSPECTION.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	606	9	23	1038	3041	Nil
Number inspected	606	9	23	1038	3041	Nil
<u>All diseases and conditions except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	Nil	1	1	1	7	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	80	2	Nil	46	599	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	13.2%	33.3%	4.3%	4.5%	19.9%	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	85	Nil
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2.8%	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	15	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and totally condemned.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

